

left out the greatest improvement of all, I refer to the quality of the teachers. We show 7 or 8 "first grade" teachers—first grade in merit, as in rank. Besides these, a large number of faithful pains taking, moral instructors are at work, improving themselves as well as their scholars. A few there are still who have mistaken their calling.

Striking the balance of difficulties and encouragements, as fairly as I can, it seems to me that the latter decidedly preponderate. Progress is made and making, and must go on, in increasing ratio, if the hands that hold the destiny of the State, shall continue to uphold the best interests of the children of the State.

Respectfully,
WM. H. FARQUHAR,
President of the Board.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

To State Superintendent of Public Instruction,

Dear Sir:

Since my last report I have personally visited and examined every school in the County with two exceptions. And, in reviewing our educational history, I am gratified to say the indications of improvement are unmistakable. The new system has taken a strong hold upon the popular mind. A fresh impetus and vitality have been imparted to it under the operation of the new law.

According to the County school enrollment, the numerical increase of pupils during the last twelve months, has been twenty per cent., and the average attendance during that time, has been upwards of forty per cent. And with the increase of the pupils, there has been a corresponding improvement in the moral and social condition of the schools.

Teachers.—Our teachers, taken in the aggregate, have increased very much in efficiency since my last report. Some can be recommended highly for their acquirements, energy, and aptitude to teach, and for the discipline and good order which they preserve in their schools. But, I regret to say, some still remain who are inefficient and who will have to leave the ranks, and their places be supplied by others more competent.

Examinations.—Public examinations are held at the end of each quarter, and are conducted orally. The attendance of parents and spectators is sometimes quite large. And the anticipation of the presence of the Commissioners and patrons by the pupils at the examinations, seem to inspire